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only expenses related to postage, copying and printing. The commission believes that during the first year and a half of the program the majority of individuals who are at the poverty level have been served. By eliminating the income guidelines, we will enable more deaf and hard-of-hearing people to access the telecommunication equipment. This bill also makes a minor change in the statutes to clarify language relating to deaf and hard-of-hearing persons to conform with the statutory definitions found in 17-4720.01, and makes changes in the special committee which advises the commission by providing that one member must be deaf while another may be either deaf or hard-of-hearing. There was no opposition to the bill. I believe it is a good bill that will allow more persons to access the necessary telecommunications equipment and I urge you to support it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Chair recognizes Senator Suttle.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I introduced this bill with a lid on it, like 200 percent of poverty would be able to qualify for these funds. I was asked by a committee from the deaf community to introduce this and did not know that Senator Pedersen was going to introduce it as well without a lid on it. The Public Service Commission informed us that the fund could take care of everyone, didn't really matter if, because of the amount of funds in the fund that's already established, did not need to have a lid on it. So I killed my bill in the Health and Human Services Committee and Senator Pedersen...and added my name to Senator Pedersen's bill and do support it and urge you to advance it to E & R Initial.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Suttle. Further discussion on the advancement of LB 359? Senator Pedersen, you're recognized to close on LB 359. Senator Pedersen waives closing. The question before us is the advancement of LB 359. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 359.